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Sri A. GOVINDASWAMY NAYAGAR :—" ஐந்தாண்டு திட்டத்தில் செஞ்சி தாலூக்காவில் எத்தனை மைல் தூரம் ரோடு போடப்பட்டது ? ஐந்தாண்டு திட்டத்தில் புதியதாக ரோடு போடவேண்டுமென்றால் சர்க்கார் எவ்வளவு பணம் பொதுமக்களிடமிருந்து கேட்கிறார்கள் ? " 10-30 a.m.

Mr. SPEAKER :—" மூலக் கேள்வியில் 3 ரோடுகளைப்பற்றி விவரம் கேட்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. இப்போது பொதுவாக மைல் கணக்கைப்பற்றி கேட்கிறீர்கள்.

" If however the Hon. Minister is prepared to answer the question, I have no objection."

The Hon. Sri K. RAJARAM :—" A separate question may be put."

Sri K. VINAYAKAM :—" The name of the village is **Nallam**pillaipethal (laughter). Will the road leading to that village be at least included in the next Five-Year Plan? "

The Hon. Sri K. RAJARAM :—" I hope so."

Increase in the price of foodgrains in Malabar.

* 317 *Q.*—Sri K. KUNHI MOHAMAD SHAFEE : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any orders have been issued to the Producers-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Societies in Malabar district asking them to increase the wholesale and retail prices of rice, wheat, paddy, etc., distributed through the ration shops on and from 14th February 1954; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons for ordering such increase?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

" (*b*) Does not arise."

Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" I invite the attention of the Hon. Minister to a report that ' on an enquiry from the Provincial Co-operative Credit Societies and with the officials who are in charge of supplies, it is learnt that (from the 14th February 1954, the price of raw rice has been increased from nine annas four pies to nine annas six pies. We have received instructions that transport charges should not be included in the administration charges.' Therefore, it is a fact that it has been increased from nine annas four pies to nine annas six pies and as late as the 12th March, the officials have received no communication about the fact that the transport charges need not be tacked on to administration charges "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I have passed a specific order to the effect ' that the Government have now decided that hereafter there should be only one fixed uniform pool price for the first and second sorts of rice, that is the retail issue price to the consumers throughout the State irrespective of the number of transfers of stocks from place

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to place.' In order to ensure such a uniform price, the Government have made necessary provision for such extra transport charges and other losses."

SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMAD SHAFEE :—" I am sorry that the information given by the Hon. Minister is incorrect. In fact, the order was issued by the Supply Department in Malabar, asking the Provincial Co-operative Credit Societies to increase the price of rice, paddy, wheat, etc., by five annas eight pies per maund, that is apart from the administrative surcharge already in force, viz., five annas per maund. On the 10th or 11th of February, an urgent order was sent to the Provincial Co-operative Credit Societies in Malabar by the Supply Department in the district."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Let the hon. Member put it in the form of a question."

SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMAD SHAFEE :—" I am sorry to inform the Hon. Minister that the department has supplied the Government with incorrect information."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Even the Supply Department cannot go behind the Government Orders. If there has been any mistake, I shall have it rectified."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" The Hon. Minister was just now saying that no instructions were issued to the Producers-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Societies in Malabar to enhance the price of rice. Sir, in a telegram sent by the Collector of Malabar to the Supply Department, it is stated—

'Administration surcharge raised to ten annas eight pies for rice broken wheat milo etc. and seven annas six pies for paddy per maund from 14th February. Re-fix prices of stock on closure of 13th February. Assess stocks on 13th and collect difference amounts. Revision should be given effect to from 14th February definitely.'

Circulars were also issued by the Supply Department to every Provincial Co-operative Society on 15th February 1954, based on the telegram that I have just read. Subsequent to the answer given by the Hon. Minister on the floor of this House in reply to my question last week that no price has been asked to be enhanced, Sri K. V. Narayanan Nambiar has sent representations to the Hon. Minister in respect of that matter. Is it a fact that such a representation had been received, if so, what action has been taken?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" No doubt, administrative charges and all those things have been fixed, but that is only for the purpose of fixing the wholesale price. What we have done is, we have fixed the pool price of rice to be sold to consumers for the purpose of working out the wholesale price. We have also fixed various charges, like administrative charge, etc. So the telegram refers to administrative charges and all those things for the purpose of fixing the wholesale price. As far as the consumer's price is concerned, it has been fixed once and for all, that is, 14 annas

6 pies for the first sort rice and 11 annas 6 pies for the second sort. We have issued instructions that it should prevail throughout the State."

SRI R. KRISHNAN :—" സ്റ്റേറ്റിലെ മറ്റെല്ലാ ഡിസ്ട്രിക്ടുകളേയും അപേക്ഷിച്ചു മലബാറിലെ ജീവിതച്ചെലവു് ജാസ്തിയാണു്. കിട്ടുന്ന അരിതന്നെ വാങ്ങാൻ അവിടത്തെ ആളുകൾക്കു കഴിവില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ടു് അരിക്കു നിശ്ചയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ട്രാൻസ്പോർട്ട് ചാർജ്ജ് സബ്സിഡിയായി കൊടുക്കാൻ ഗവമ്മേണ്ടു് ആലോചിക്കുമോ ?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Formerly, in Malabar in addition to the pool price, they were adding transport charges and other incidental charges to the consumer's price. Now, even in Malabar it should be sold at only 14 annas 6 pies for the first sort and 11 annas 6 pies for the second sort. No other charges will be added to it. That is why, Malabar has derived specific advantage by this order."

SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI :—" In view of the answer given by the Hon. Minister, if, on an enquiry, the Government find that they have collected an amount in excess of the price fixed for consumers, will they refund the amount to consumers? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" This is a hypothetical question. If any mistake has been done, I shall have it rectified."

SRI A. APPU :—" In view of the fact that Malabar is getting rice of a very bad quality at a very high cost, will the Government consider the question of subsidising and reducing the price of rice in Malabar? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I am afraid the other people in the State cannot be saddled with the cost of rice to be sold in Malabar."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" The other day, in answering a similar question, the Hon. Minister said that there was no increase in the price and we maintained that there was an increase. I am sorry that even to-day he has not received any information or enquired about it. On the 12th March, we received definite information from official sources, that it has been increased by two pies. Will the Hon. Minister hereafter at least call for a report on this aspect of the question and rectify any error if there is one? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The hon. Member need not presume that I have not called for a report. Whatever action is necessary is being taken."

SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMAD SHAFEE :—" Sales have been effected taking into account the increase in the price of foodgrains sold through the P.C.C.S. ration shops in Malabar. Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to get a correct report from the district authorities as early as possible? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Yes, Sir."

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SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" The Hon. Minister has been pleased to state that the consumer's price of rice has been fixed once and for all for the whole State. Can he give the assurance that there will not be any further increase in the price of rice sold in ration shops? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" It all depends upon the price of imported rice. If there is no further increase in the price of imported rice, I would not increase it. If there is a decrease, I may be able to decrease it."

Alienation of poramboke lands at Kavanur, Vridhachalam taluk.

* 318 *Q.*—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any application for the alienation of poramboke lands from the Manager, Basic School at Kavanur, Vridhachalam taluk, and if so, the action taken thereon; and

(*b*) whether in the matter of assignment poramboke lands, the Government give preferential treatment to the requirements of public purposes over the needs of the landless poor?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (*a*) Yes. The Government have seen no grounds to comply with the request of the Manager of the School in his application.

" (*b*) The Government have not laid down as a rule that when an institution applies for a land as being required for a public purpose and a landless poor person also applies for it, the former should be given preference over the latter. Each case is dealt with on its merits."

SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN :—" May I know, what are the recommendations of the Collector in this matter and whether the Government have concurred with or differed from the views of the Collector? If the Government have deviated from the views of the Collector, what is the reason therefor? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Not only the Collector but also the Director of Public Instruction made a report. The land in question is eminently fit for wet cultivation. It is away from the school and it was given to a sivoijamadar of 30 years' standing for 2½ times market value. The Director of Public Instruction was definitely against giving this land to the school."

10-40 a.m. SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" In the cause and interest of basic education, is it not necessary that the Government should have given preference to the school authorities rather than alienating the land to some Congressman? "